

THE PATH OF AHLUL'BAYT (AS)



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THE SIGN OF HAPPINESS



There was a young couple who led a very happy life together. The only thing that they worried about was, whether their happiness would last forever or would they too would have to face problems. One day, they heard that a wise old man had come to town; he could solve all kinds of problems and guide people. So the couple decided to visit the wise old man and tell him their source of worry. The wise old man told them; “Travel around the world and seek a man and a woman who are perfectly happy as a couple. When you find

such a couple, ask them for a piece of cloth from the man's shirt, then keep that piece of cloth with you, and you always remain happy." The young couple began their journey, to find the happiest couple in their world. In one place they heard that the governor and his wife were the happiest people, so they went to their palace and asked them, "Are you the happiest couple?" The governor and his wife replied, "Yes, we are happy in every way except for one thing; we do not have any children." Well that didn't make the governor and his wife the happiest couple. So they continued their journey.

They arrived in one city where they had heard that the happiest couple lived. They went to their house and asked them, "Are you the happiest couple?" The couple replied, "Yes, we are really happy in every way except that we have too many children which make our life a bit uncomfortable." No, this couple did not sound to be the happiest. And, so they continued their journey.

They visited many countries, cities, towns and villages asking the same question but they did not find what they were looking for. One day the young couple came across a shepherd in the desert. The shepherd was grazing his sheep when his wife and child came along. The shepherd greeted his wife and gently patted the child she was carrying. She laid the mat and started to eat contentedly. The young couple came to them and asked them, "Are you the happiest couple?" The shepherd and his wife replied, "Nobody is unhappier than the king." The young couple immediately realized that they were the happiest couple and asked them for a piece of the shepherd's shirt, so that their happiness too would last throughout. The shepherd said, "If I give you a piece of cloth from my shirt then I will be left without any clothes since I own just one shirt." The young couple at once understood that it is very difficult to find perfect happiness anywhere in the world.

The couple decided to return to their own country. They went to the wise old man and related all that had taken place. They also complained that his guidance was difficult to abide by.

The wise old man laughed and said, "Was your journey useless or did you learn something from it?" The young man replied, "Yes, after this trip I have learnt that in this world, nobody is perfectly happy, only that person is happy who does everything to please God."

Holy Qur'an says: "And whoever follows My (Allah's) guidance, on them shall be no fear nor shall they grieve." (2:38)

The wife said, "I have learnt that in order to be happy it is important to remember two things; first, all human beings should be thankful and contented with whatever they have." Holy Qur'an says: "And your Lord declared publicly: if you are grateful, I will add more favors unto you." (14:7)

And secondly, for ultimate happiness one must always practice patience. Holy Qur'an says: "Seek help through patient perseverance and prayers." (2:45)

After that, young couple thanked the wise old man for his guidance and returned home. The wise man prayed for them and said, "Indeed the sign of happiness is in their heart and they have good manners and if the lifetime is spent in pleasure of God there would be no differences in the existence of mankind."

Holy Qur'an says: "Whosoever follows My (Allah's) guidance, will not loose his way nor fall into misery. But whosoever turns away from My message, verily for him is a miserable life." (20:123-124).

My dear friends: The Moral of the above story in simple words of Imam Ali Ibn Abu Talib (as) – "Happy is the man who always kept the afterlife in his view, who remembers the Day of Reckoning through his deeds, who led a contented life and who was happy with the lot that Allah (swt) hath destined for him"

-WASALAAM

ESOOFI ABD'IL QADER